AUTODOC CLUB

How to change front brake discs on **BMW 3 Coupe (E46)** – replacement guide

SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL

This video shows the replacement procedure of a similar car part on another vehicle

Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 323Ci 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 320Ci 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 318Ci 1.9, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 320Ci 2.2, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 316Ci 1.6, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 318Ci 2.0

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

This tutorial was created based on the replacement procedure for a similar car part on: BMW 3 Convertible (E46) 318Ci 2.0

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE DISCS – BMW 3 COUPE (E46). TOOLS YOU NEED:

- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Drive socket # 16
- HEX bit No.H7.
- Torx bit T30
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Brake caliper wind back tool
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Tap wrench
- Crow bar
- Impact screwdriver
- Rubber mallet
- Wheel chock

Buy tools

Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

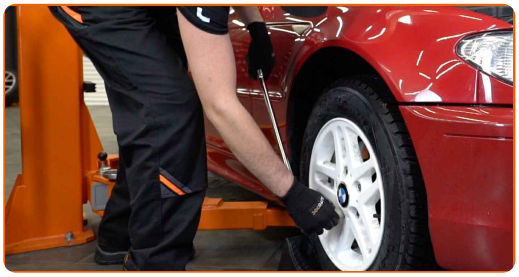
- Replace the brake disks on the car BMW 3 Coupe (E46) in complete set for each axis. Regardless of the state of components. This will ensure even braking.
- The replacement procedure is identical for both brake disks on the same axle.
- When changing the brake discs, always replace the brake pads.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE DISCS – BMW 3 COUPE (E46). USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

1 Open the bonnet. Unscrew the brake fluid reservoir cap.

2 Secure the wheels with chocks.

3 Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



4 Raise the front of the car and secure on supports.

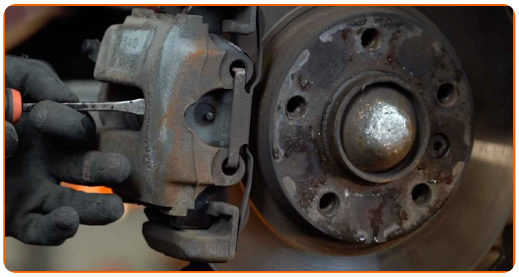
5 Unscrew the wheel bolts.

Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when unscrewing the bolts.

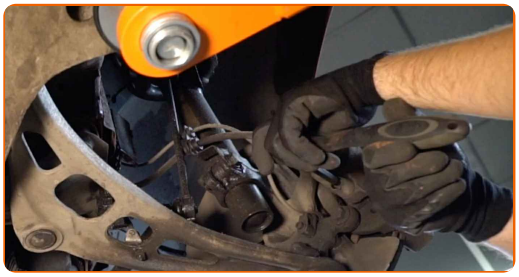
6 Remove the wheel.

7 Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.

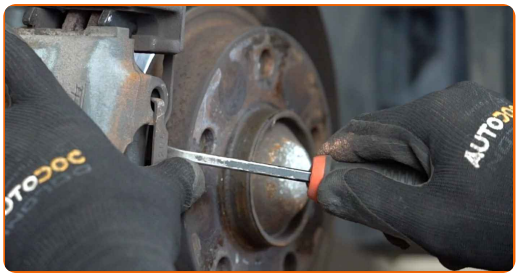


8 Remove the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins. Use a crowbar.

9 Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



10 Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.

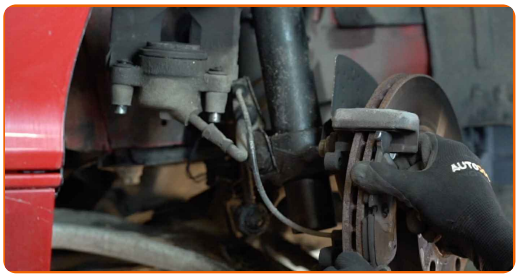


11 Remove the brake caliper.

Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC experts recommend:

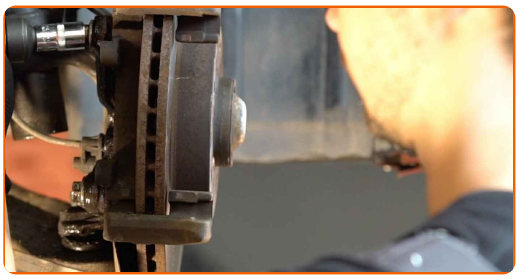
- Tie the caliper to the suspension or to the body with a wire without disconnecting from the brake hose to prevent depressurization of the brake system.
- Make sure that the brake caliper is not hanging on the brake hose.
- Don't press the brake pedal after the brake caliper has been removed. As a result, the piston can fall out from the brake cylinder, and brake fluid leakage and depressurization of the system may occur.

12 Remove the brake pads.

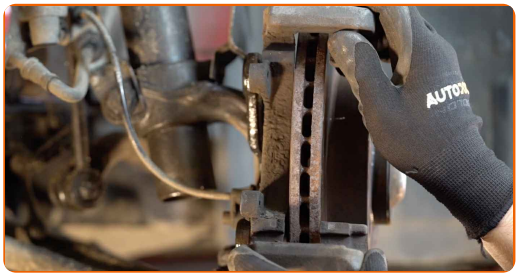


13 Clean the brake caliper bracket fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.

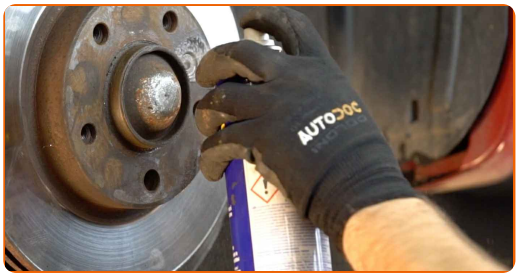
14 Unscrew the caliper bracket fastening. Use a drive socket #16. Use a tap wrench. Use a ratchet wrench.



15 Remove the caliper bracket.



16 Clean the brake disk surface. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



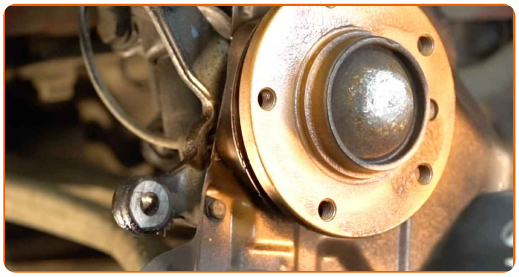
17 Unscrew the brake disc fastening. Use Torx T30. Use an impact screwdriver.

Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC:

- If necessary, use a rubber mallet.

18 Remove the brake disc.

19 Clean the hub. Use a wire brush. Treat the contacting surface. Use copper grease.

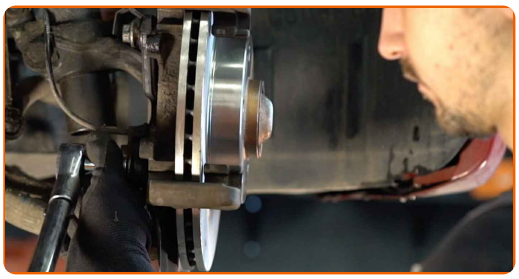


20 Install the brake disc.

21 Tighten the brake disc fastening. Use Torx T30. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 16 Nm torque.

22 Install the brake caliper bracket.

23 Tighten the brake caliper bracket. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 110 Nm torque.

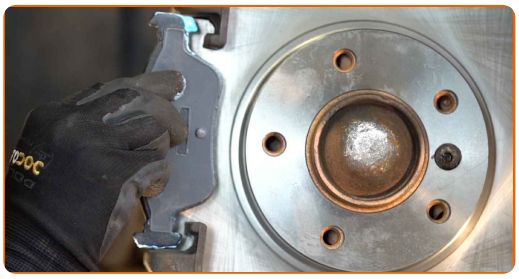


24 Clean the mounting seats of the caliper and its bracket. Use a wire brush. Use a brake cleaner.

AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

25 Install the brake pads in the brake caliper bracket.

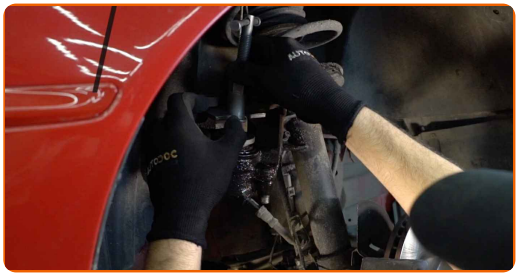


26 Treat the brake caliper piston. Use a brake cleaner.

AUTODOC recommends:

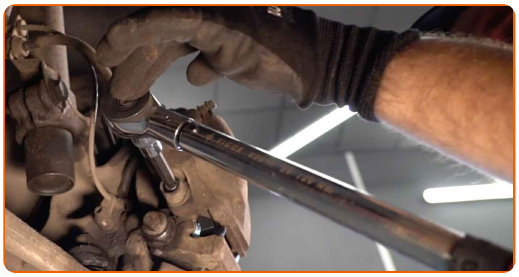
- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

27 Press in the brake caliper piston. Use brake caliper wind back tool.

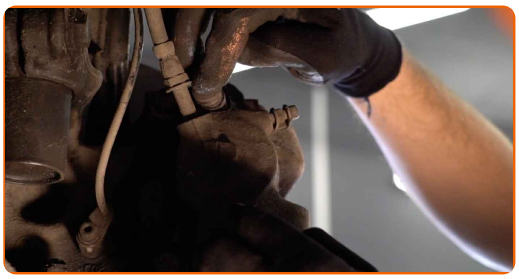


28 Install the brake pads in the brake caliper.

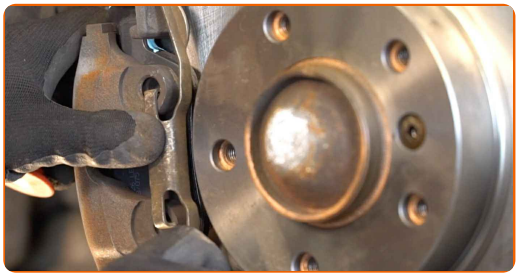
29 Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



30 Install the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins.



31 Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



32 Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.

AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

33 Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use copper grease.

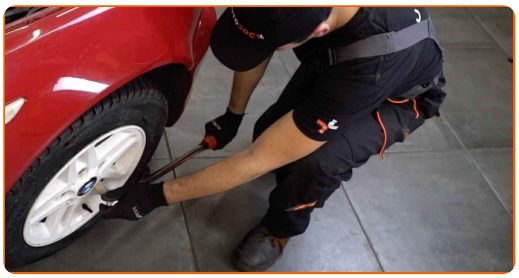
34 Install the wheel.

Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC experts recommend:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when screwing in the fastening bolts.

35 Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.

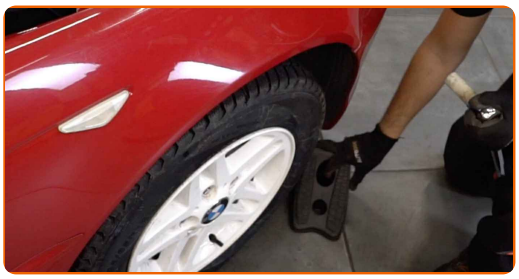
36 Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.



AUTODOC recommends:

- BMW 3 Coupe (E46) – Without starting the engine, press the brake pedal several times until it feels firm.

37 Remove the jacks and chocks.



Replacement: brake discs – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Check the brake fluid level in the expansion tank and refill if necessary.

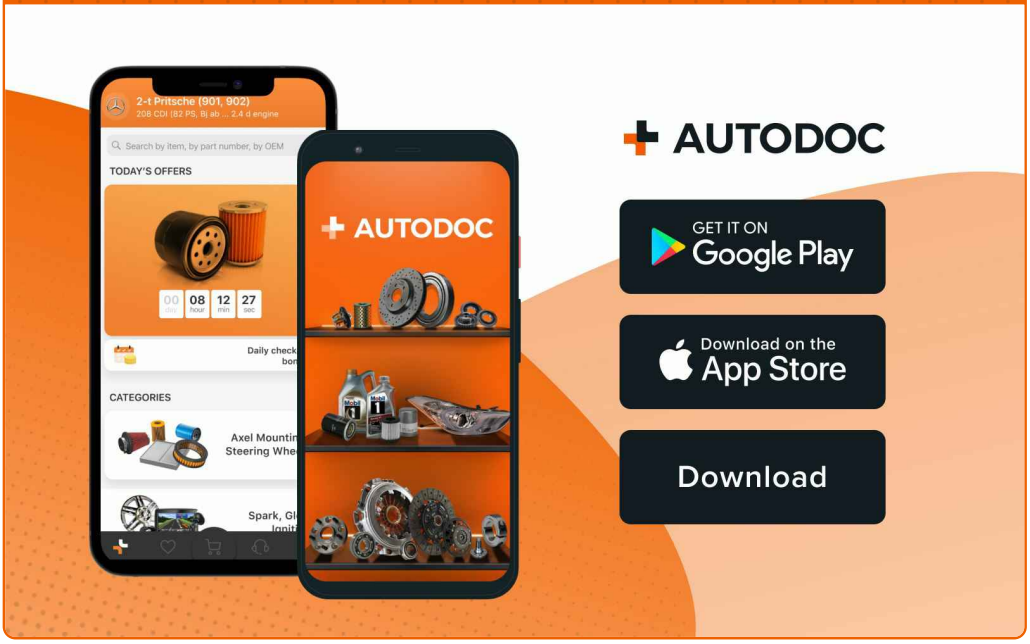
38 Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap. Close the hood.

WELL DONE!

VIEW MORE TUTORIALS

AUTODOC — TOP QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE CAR PARTS ONLINE

AUTODOC MOBILE APP: GREAT DEALS AND CONVENIENT SHOPPING



A GREAT SELECTION OF SPARE PARTS FOR YOUR CAR

BRAKE DISCS: A WIDE SELECTION

ⓘ DISCLAIMER:

The document contains only general recommendations that may be useful for you when you perform repair or replacement work. AUTODOC shall not be liable for any loss, injury, damage of property occurring in the repair or replacement process due to incorrect use or misinterpretation of the provided information.

AUTODOC shall not be liable for any possible mistakes and uncertainties in this guide. The information provided is for information purposes only and cannot replace advice from specialists.

AUTODOC shall not be liable for incorrect or hazardous usage of equipment, tools and car parts. AUTODOC strongly recommends to be careful and observe the safety rules when performing repair or replacement works. Remember: usage of low quality auto parts does not guarantee you the appropriate level of road safety.

© Copyright 2023 – All the contents of this website, in particular texts, photographs and graphics, are protected by copyright. All rights, including reproduction, publication, editing and translation rights, are reserved by AUTODOC SE.